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New FUGIO Reverse

Newman Variety OO



Discovered by Mike Ringo

(TN-115)

Sequential page 1024

NEW FUGIO REVERSE OO

(TN-115)

Discovered by Mike Ringo; Albany, New York

Comments by ye Editor

Photograph courtesy of Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

A new FUGIO reverse, designated as Newman OO, has been discovered in combination with previously known Obverse 10. The new combination, Newman 10-OO, is illustrated below. Enlargement is 1.75x. The specimen weighs 161.6 grains and die juxtaposition is normal (180°).



FUGIO 10-OO



Obverse 10 has been known previously in combination with Reverses G and T. Judging from the well defined clash marks on the present obverse, this specimen appears to be a later striking than either the 10-G or 10-T combinations. Further -- the broken O puncheon and the thin upright of the N in WE ARE ONE suggest very late manufacture of the reverse die in comparison with others in the series. Accordingly it seems reasonable to conclude that these dies were used together very late in the overall production history of the Fugio coins.

This specimen was discovered in early 1988 by CNL Patron Mike Ringo who plans to offer it at auction later this year. Our special thanks to Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc. for the photographs.

On this new reverse OO, the positions of individual letters of WE ARE ONE and touch-points relative to the STATES UNITED on the band are almost identical to the configuration of reverse MM and without several other fortunate differences it would be extremely difficult to tell one from the other. The major difference between the two is the broken lower right segment of the letter O in WE ARE ONE. This break does not appear on Reverse MM. This same broken O punch can be seen on Reverses G and P and the initial stages of the breaking can be seen on Reverses T, U and R, among others. Reverse MM also has overpunched cinquefoils on the band but these might easily be overlooked.

In addition to the characteristics noted above there are several secondary diagnostic die breaks which are quite obvious on new Reverse OO. The first is a peripheral die break which begins below ring five and extends along the denticles to a position (uncertain) below ring 8 or 9 where it is lost from view in an area of weak striking. This break is very much like the break seen on Reverse KK; at first glance this variety evokes the immediate thought that it is a Reverse KK. The second is a small die break within ring 4 beginning at about the 2:00 o'clock position and extending about 1/8 inch diagonally in toward the central area.

This very brief description of Reverse OO has been made from photographs -- ye Editor has not had the opportunity to examine the specimen itself; accordingly, some peculiarity may have been missed in this description. The enlarged photograph of the central area on the frontispiece of this issue should prove helpful in attributing this variety.

NOE 5.8 - An UNLISTED OAK TREE SHILLING Variety.
by Robert A. Vlack; Brookfield, CT

(TN-116)

This variety is obviously the result of a retooling of the Noe 5 die. None of the die breaks and die clashing associated with the Noe 5 are visible on this variety. This indicates the die was planed down to eliminate these features and retooled to produce this probable final die use. Weight is 66.4 grains, with details as follows. Comparison was made with the Norweb specimen (which is also illustrated here).

OBVERSE: The tree has been retooled showing just two parallel lines for a trunk with no cross-hatching in between. There are no side shrubs and no roots. While the tree is basically the same, there are subtle differences when examined closely. All the letters and beads are heavy. There are now 64 beads on the obverse instead of 68 as on Noe 5. The final S in MASATHVSETS and apex on the V are much closer to the beads than on Noe 5.

REVERSE: Much of the lettering strengthened. The most significant difference is the right bottom apex of the W just about touches a bead whereas on the Noe 5 it is very distant. On Noe 5, there are 68 beads, on this variety there are 67. This new discovery has been corroborated with Walter Breen and we both decided to list it as Noe 5.8.



NEW VARIETY NOE 5.8
Photo by Robert A. Vlack



NORWEB NOE 5 FOR COMPARISON
Photo courtesy of Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

ROMAN NUMERALS ON CONTINENTAL CURRENCY COIN DIES**by Michael Hodder; Wolfeboro, New Hampshire**

(TN-117)

An interesting feature of the five known obverses of the Continental Currency of 1776, one of which has not yet been published as far as I know, is the placement and sequence of the Roman Numerals around the sun dial. There are three distinct treatments of this feature on the dies, each of which shares the same failure to appreciate how the numerals would look once the coins were struck.

While there are five known obverse "types" there are really only four different dies; Newman obverse 5 is a reworking of obverse 4. On all four dies the die-cutter began punching the Roman numerals onto the sun dial at the extreme upper left and proceeded around the sundial in a clockwise fashion. Numerals I, II, III, IV (rendered, also correctly, as IIII on obverses 1 and 2), V, and VI were punched into the die correctly in every case.

At this point there is a wide space on the sundials of each of the four obverses, left empty on the dies. Punching of the numerals resumed at the extreme lower right of the sun dial, with VII and VIII (sometimes idiosyncratically rendered as IIX on obverse 3, signed E G Fecit) entered next, usually correctly (except for obverse 3, where it was punched as XII). Once the sequence of numerals had "turned the corner" on the sundial problems arose for the die sinker.

To portray the sun dial correctly the numerals had to be entered upside down relative to someone looking at the coin, but right side up to an imaginary observer standing in front of the gnomon. This required some extra careful attention to the way numerals IX, XI, and XII were to be punched, and here the die-sinker(s) betrayed their lack of skill. On dies 1 and 2 the Roman numerals IX, XI, and XII were punched in correctly for someone holding one of the coins to read them, but rotated 180 degrees out of true with regard to the sun dial, itself. The die sinker who cut obverse 3, the mysterious E. G., became very confused with the complexities of the orientation and forgot to punch a numeral IX into the die. The author of obverse 4/5 was careful not to repeat the mistake of obverse 3 and punched a IX after his VIII, but somehow managed to put two numerals VI onto his die!

Obverses 1 and 2 share the same incorrect placement of these numerals, while obverse 3 has its own style and obverse 4/5 has a still different way of placing the numerals. This may be suggestive of three different hands on the dies, but I have not yet followed this up.

By way of contrast, the "prototype" for the "types" on the coinage, the \$ 1/6 paper currency issue of February 17, 1776, places the Roman numerals on its sundial in their correct sequence and uses the conventional VIII for numeral 8. All FUGIO copper dies also place the numerals in their correct sequence (except for the blundered IIII on the original hub design). Further, both the paper issue of 2/17/76 and the FUGIOs start their numbering sequence at the extreme lower right, in contrast the starting point on all the Continental Currency coinage dies, which is at the extreme upper left. Starting the numbering from the lower right and using IIII for IV meant that there could be no problems with orientation of the numerals, since I, II, III, and IIII rotated 180 degrees were unchanged. On the FUGIOs numerals V and VI "turn the corner" on the sundial and so were not subject to incorrect placement in the die; we see the same immunity from error on the Continental Currency pieces with these numerals, which also "turn the corner" on the sun dial.

Reading from left to right, clockwise, as if the sun dials were in a garden and we were walking around them, the sequence of Roman numerals on the Continental Currency dies is as follows:

Obverse 1. CURRENCY.

I II III IIII V VI VII VIII XI X IX IIX .

Numerals punched in starting at the extreme upper left, proceeding in clockwise fashion. Numerals correctly placed through VIII. Starting with IX, through XII, the die-sinker failed to rotate IX, XI, and XII 180 degrees.

Obverse 2. CURRENCY.

I II III IIII V VI VII VIII XI X IX IIX .

Same failure to rotate IX, XI, and XII as on obverse 1.

Obverse 3. E G Fecit.

I II III /// V VI VII XII X IX IIX

Same failure to rotate as seen above. Also, VIII has been rendered as IIX, classically acceptable but idiosyncratic in this series and contemporary context. Further, IX has been omitted, so there are only 11 numerals on the sun dial face. Numeral IV (III?) is hidden behind the gnomon; /// means illegible in paleographic notation.

Obverse 4/5. CURRENCY/Floriated Cross.

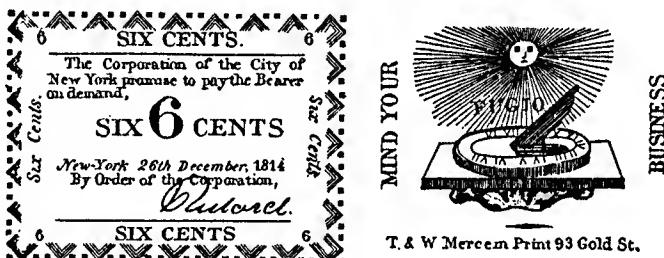
I II III /// V VI VII VIII XI X IX IIX

Same failure to rotate as seen above. Conventional VIII for 8. Duplication of VI created 13 numerals on the sun dial face.

Those FUGIO Sundials Comments by ye Editor

(TN-117A)

Mike Hodder's interesting discussion, above, of the die-sinker's problems with cutting the Roman Numerals on the Continental Currency dies does not cover one really gross problem with ALL of the "FUGIO" sundials -- and that is the very basic fact that a sundial is a 24 hour device and NOT a 12 hour device! So far as ye Editor knows, the only accurate representation of a FUGIO sundial is that appearing on the 26 December 1814 Six Cent Note of the City of New York illustrated below:

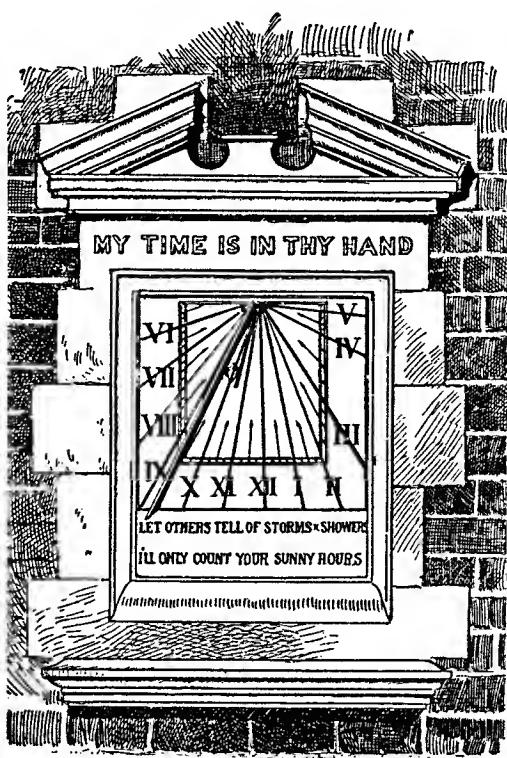


Reduced size illustration

In general terms, the sun rises around 6:00 AM and sets around 6:00 PM give or take some time depending on the season. The shadow of the gnomon of a sundial follows with a corresponding swing during that 12 hour period from one side of the dialplate around to the other side, approximately a 180° angle. Accordingly, those twelve numerals are inscribed across a nominal 180° angle and not the full 360° as denoted on the various FUGIO dialplates! Further, the numeral XII indicating the noon hour appears directly below the gnomon. The twelve hours of darkness are generally blank or filled with ornamentation or mottos of some sort.

On the fractional Continental Currency of February 17, 1776 (see CNL page 945) the orientation of the numerals is such that the numeral XII appears in approximately the correct position directly below the point of the gnomon; however, on the Continental Currency Coins the entire dialplate numeral configuration is rotated 180° from that on the paper currency and the numeral XII appears at the base of the gnomon, the wrong end! On the FUGIO Cents of 1787 the XII is in approximately the correct position, but the dial plate displays 12 hour increments incorrectly spread over a full 360°. While there is little question that the dialplate design on the Fugio Cents is an attractive one from an artistic viewpoint, it remains a horological anomaly.

These gross errors in the depiction of FUGIO dialplates would seem to indicate that none of the early engravers or diesinkers were familiar with the proper layout and construction of a sundial and they remained incorrectly depicted until the year 1814 when the plate engraver for the New York City note finally got it right!



Vertical Dial at Sandringham, England, residence of King Edward VII.
From *Sun Dials and Roses of Yesterday* (New York, 1902) by Alice Morse Earle

A NEW JAMES ATLEE IMITATION BRITISH HALFPENCE
from Gary A. Trudgen; Endwell, New York

(TN-118)

A new James Atlee imitation British halfpence variety has been discovered by Mike Ringo of Albany, New York. The new discovery is a combination of previously known dies, both of which are rather common -- namely Obverse 23 and Reverse 87C. The attribution of the new variety is therefore Vlack 23-87C. It is included in Group Three of the Atlee Halfpence Series (See CNL No. 75) and was struck at Machin's Mills.



New Altee Halfpence -- Vlack 23-87C
Enlarged 1.5X

Presently, this specimen is believed to be unique. The photographs show the coin -- from the standpoint of wear it grades at least Very Fine, however, the planchet condition is poor and it was extremely difficult to photograph. The coin has been mistreated -- it is bent and has several digs and scratches. It weighs in at 126 grains, which puts it on the heavy side for an Atlee Halfpence; this series has an average weight of 111 grains. Much better photographs of specimens of these two dies are available and are illustrated below.

The obverse die of new combination 23-87C appears to be worn, resulting in a weak legend on the right side. Thus, Obverse 23 was probably combined with Reverse 87C after first being used to strike variety 23-88A. It was previously known only in combination with Reverse 88A, resulting in variety 23-88A which is a common issue of this series.



Atlee Halfpence -- Obverse 23
Enlarged 1.5X



**Atlee Halfpence -- Reverse 87C
Enlarged 1.5X**

Reverse die 87C is the most heavily used die of the Atlee Halfpence series. Before its discovery with Obverse 23, it was known to have been combined with obverses 18, 19, 20, 21-II and VT (Vermont Britannia). It is by far the most commonly used reverse die in terms of die combinations and the number of extant coppers struck from it.

The reverse die state of new combination 23-87C shows a weak legend and date, much the same as early die state Vermont Britannia pieces. Degradation of the legend and date of reverse die 87C can be observed in some of its other obverse combinations, such as 18-87C and 21-II-87C. Thus, its combination with Obverse 23 was probably accomplished after its other halfpence usage and just prior to its use with the Vermont obverse (Vlack VT or Bressett 17).

In conclusion, if my preceding observations are accurate, combination 23-87C was struck after combination 23-88A and just before the Newburgh Vermont coinage that is believed to have started with combination VT-87C (Vermont Britannia, Bressett 17-V, also known as Ryder 13).

Editor's Note: This new combination was discovered several years ago but formal publication of the specimen has been delayed by repeated unsuccessful attempts to make a reasonably good photograph of a very difficult subject. Old copper coins are, at best, difficult to photograph, print, and then reproduce by the halftone process. This specimen has been exceptionally difficult and the results above are, at best, rather poor and we apologize for them.





MATTHIAS OGDEN

◆ ◆ ◆
**NEW JERSEY
STATE COINER**
◆ ◆ ◆

by Gary A. Trudgen

Silhouette, circa mid-1780's
The New Jersey Historical Society

INTRODUCTION

The name of Matthias Ogden is synonymous with the copper coinage produced under the authority of the State of New Jersey. This young and energetic legislator was the catalyst and one of the principal actors in this early American coinage episode. The many varieties of New Jersey "horse head" coppers produced because of Ogden's initiative are very interesting to collect and study. However, the short but very active life of Matthias Ogden is also quite interesting. He figured prominently in the Revolutionary War and he knew many important people of his day.

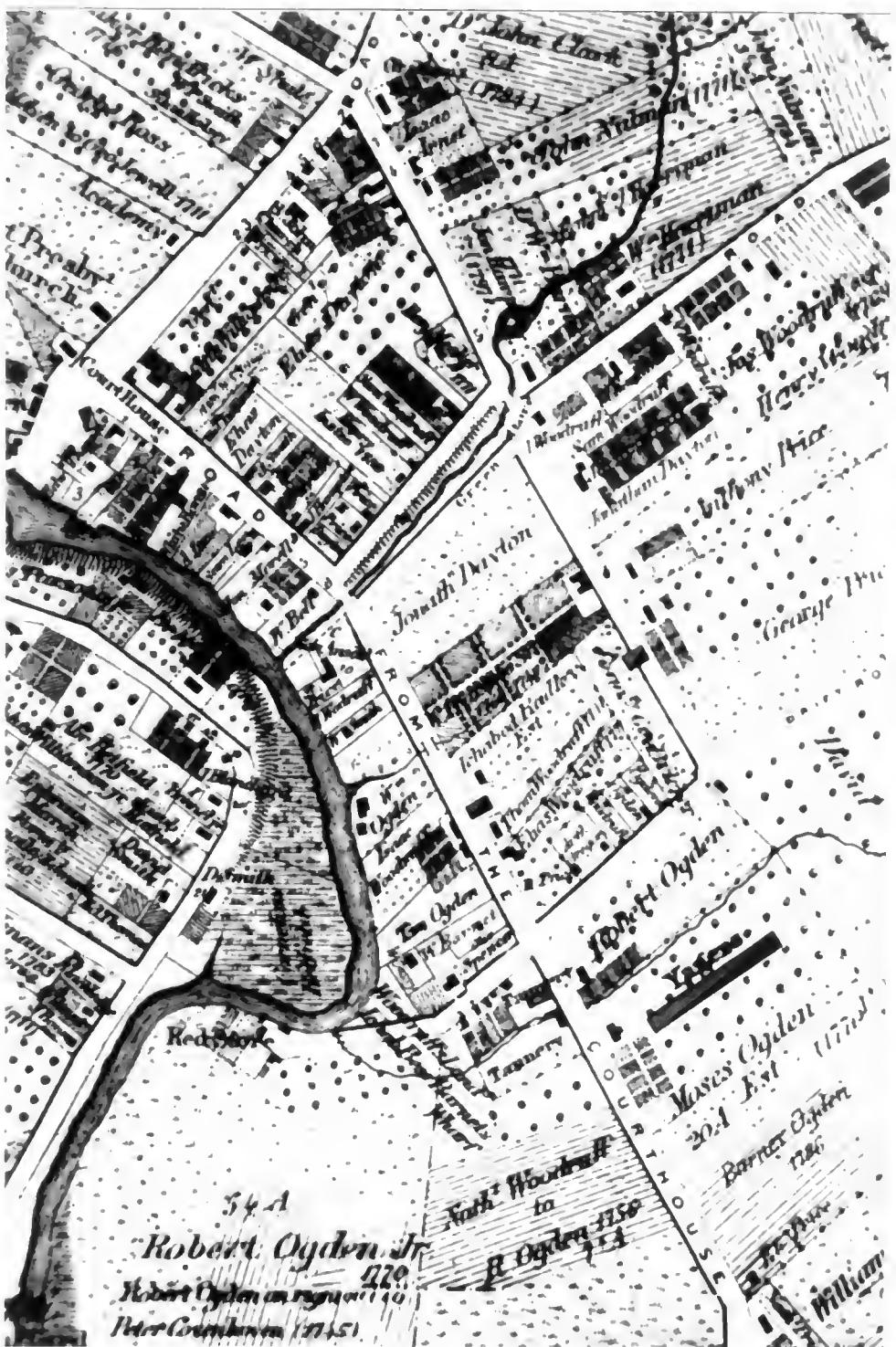
Knowledge of the people involved with any coinage episode can add insight into that coinage. It can also add to the pleasure of forming a specific collection. Thus, with this in mind, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Matthias Ogden.

FAMILY AND EARLY LIFE

Matthias Ogden, the fourth son of Robert and Phoebe Ogden, was born on December 22, 1754 in Elizabethtown (now Elizabeth), New Jersey. He was christened Matthias in honor of his grandfather, Matthias Hatfield, his Mother's father. His family was somewhat typical of the day, with a total of 22 children born, but only nine surviving to be adults (1).

Elizabethtown was the first permanent community in New Jersey and was named in honor of Elizabeth Carteret, the wife of Proprietor Sir George Carteret. The Ogden family was very prominent in Elizabethtown, where they were tanners, brickmakers, and stonemasons. Matthias' great-great grandfather, John Ogden (2), was one of the most influential founders of Elizabethtown in 1664. He came from eastern Long Island with his wife and five sons, and the leadership of the new community fell to him.

(1) See page 1045 for notes.



ELIZABETHTOWN MAP AT THE TIME OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR 1775-1783

by Ernest L. Meyer, 1879

Robert Ogden's property and tannery shown at lower center -- inherited by his son Matthias Ogden

Source: New Jersey Historical Society

In 1736, twenty year old Robert Ogden 2nd, Matthias' father, married Phoebe Hatfield (3). Shortly after their marriage, Robert opened a law office and steadily increased his political prominence. Among many public responsibilities he became a member of the King's Council for New Jersey and afterwards was elected to the Provincial Assembly. After serving in the Assembly for ten years he was chosen speaker of the house in 1763. His career peaked and quickly faded when the Stamp Act crisis occurred in 1765. Without permission from Governor Franklin he convened the Assembly to debate the crisis. The Assembly chose Robert Ogden, along with Hendrick Fisher and Joseph Borden, to represent New Jersey at the Stamp Act Congress in New York City. At the Congress, Robert Ogden and Timothy Ruggles, president of the Stamp Act Congress, opposed sending the resolutions directly from Congress to Parliament and the King. They thought the resolutions should be presented to the British authorities by the legislatures of each colony. Thus, the New Jersey delegates signed the Stamp Act Resolutions, except for Robert Ogden. When Robert returned home he was denounced, ridiculed, and burned in effigy, which caused him to resign from the Assembly. However, being a true Whig, he continued to denounce British policies and gradually regained the favor of his countrymen. When the American Revolution began he was elected chairman of the Elizabethtown Committee of Safety. Afterwards he served as commissary for the militia until the work became too exhausting. When the British invaded New Jersey and entered Elizabethtown in November 1776, he took his family to Sparta in Sussex County. Here he resided for the remainder of his life.

Matthias Ogden was raised in the Presbyterian faith. His father was very active in the Elizabethtown First Presbyterian Church. As a ruling elder of the church, Robert Ogden attended the New York Synod for several years.

During his early years, Matthias Ogden lived with his parents at their double stone house on King's Highway (now Elizabeth Avenue), about one-half mile from the center of Elizabethtown. Here he was taught the tanner and currier trades at his father's tannery. The house and tannery (which was across the street from the house) had been passed down through the family. He probably palled around with his older brother Robert 3rd and his younger brother Aaron. However, his bosom buddy was Aaron Burr, who would become a highly controversial national figure (4). Burr grew up in Ogden's family because, after he was orphaned, he was raised by Matthias' sister Rhoda who had married Burr's uncle Timothy Edwards. Matthias was Aaron Burr's senior by two years.

Matthias and Aaron Burr loved to sail and fish in the bays and narrows near Elizabethtown. An interesting anecdote, which gives some insight into Matthias' character, is found in Aaron Burr's memoirs (5). One day while crabbing alone, Matthias ran his knife deep into one of his legs. He rowed to Dayton's wharf where he found Dr. Bennett. Mrs. Dayton, his future mother-in-law, supplied a needle, and the doctor sewed up the wound as Matthias "grinned and bore it" with the help of some wine. Matthias was a swashbuckling youth of enormous strength who loved a good joke, but occasionally he was slowed down by attacks of asthma.

In 1768, Matthias and Aaron Ogden, Aaron Burr, and Francis Barber, attended Tapping Reeve's Classical School in Elizabethtown (6). The school, which was located on the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church, prepared boys for college. There they were taught Latin, Greek, English literature and composition, elocution, mathematics, and geography. Afterwards they attended The College of New Jersey (now Princeton), which Matthias' father had long sponsored. Matthias graduated in 1772 with distinction and began the study of law.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR YEARS

The outbreak of hostilities in 1775 between the Colonists and England interrupted Matthias' study of law. Young and spirited, Matthias and Aaron Burr were caught up in the excitement of the times. From Tapping Reeve's new law school in Litchfield, Connecticut, Burr wrote Matthias urging him to go with him to Cambridge and join the American forces holding the

British under siege in Boston. Matthias obtained his father's hesitant blessing and Aaron joined him in Elizabethtown. Burr had first journeyed to Philadelphia and had obtained letters of recommendation for himself and Matthias from Congress. Together they traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts arriving in July. In September, as unattached volunteers, they joined with Benedict Arnold in his effort to cooperate with General Montgomery to seize Quebec. Matthias was commissioned a brigade major, while Burr received a captain's commission. They left Cambridge on September 13, as members of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Green's battalion. Arnold's epic march through the wilderness of Maine to reach Quebec was one of the most remarkable feats of the War. During part of the expedition, Matthias kept an interesting journal which gives a day-to-day account of his experiences (7).



Aaron Ogden



Aaron Burr



Francis Barber

Matthias Ogden's Classmates at Tapping Reeve's Classical School in Elizabethtown

Sources: Ogden: New York Historical Society; Painting by Asher B. Durand, 1833

Burr: Yale University Art Gallery; Painting by John Vanderlyn, 1802-04

Barber: Tioga Point Museum & C. F. Heartman; from a sketch made in camp c. 1780

Within his journal he gives detailed accounts of the hardships, such as fatigue and hunger, that they suffered. After finally reaching the walled city of Quebec, Matthias was appointed the task of delivering a letter from Arnold to the Commander-in-Chief of Quebec, demanding their surrender. Matthias' description of what happened on that fateful day (November 14, 1775) follows. "According to custom I took a drummer with me, who, as soon we had risen the hill, beat a parley, and I at the same time raised my flag and marched on, waving it in the air, until I was within four rods of St. Johns' Gate, when I was saluted with a eighteen-pound shot from the wall. It struck very near and spattered us with the earth it threw up. I at first thought it had killed the drummer, but he had only fallen with fright. We did not wait for a second, but retreated in quick time till under cover of the hill." The following day Arnold again asked Matthias to try to deliver the letter under a flag. Once again he was fired upon, this time the cannon ball passing over his head.

On December 3, 1775 General Montgomery arrived from Montreal with his army. With their combined forces they held Quebec under siege while planning an assault on the city. They attacked on New Year's Eve during a blinding snowstorm. The assault failed. Arnold was wounded in the leg and Montgomery was killed. Matthias Ogden was wounded in the shoulder by grapeshot (8). On New Year's day, Arnold sent an express to Washington giving an account of his involvement in the battle. In part he says: "The loss of my detachment, before I left it, was about twenty men killed and wounded; among the latter is Major Ogden, who, with Captain Oswald, Captain Burr and the other volunteers, behaved extremely well."

In 1788 Colonel John Trumbull painted a scene depicting the attack on Quebec. The painting (oil on canvas) is titled "The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec." Of the twelve men memorialized in the painting, Matthias Ogden is one of them. He is shown supporting the dying Montgomery from behind. However his face was not painted from a real likeness. The only true likeness known of Matthias Ogden is the silhouette that is included on the title sheet -- page 1032 -- of this article.



"Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec"

Matthias Ogden is shown supporting the dying Montgomery

Source: Yale University Art Gallery; Painting by John Trumbull in 1788

After returning from the Canadian campaign, Matthias Ogden married his sweetheart, Hannah Dayton, in April 1776. Hannah was the daughter of Colonel Elias Dayton and sister of Jonathan Dayton. Elias Dayton was a leading citizen of Elizabethtown. He was a veteran of the French and Indian War and he served with distinction throughout the Revolutionary War. In appearance he strongly resembled Washington. Jonathan Dayton served with his father through much of the Revolution. After the war he entered into politics. He was a member of the Federal Convention and signed the Constitution and served several times in Congress. Dayton, Ohio is named for him. Matthias and Hannah Ogden had five children, four sons and one daughter (9).

Shortly after their marriage, Hannah joined the exodus from Elizabethtown seeking safety in the New Jersey back country. Matthias was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the second establishment of the First New Jersey Regiment of Continentals, commanded by Colonel William Winds. His regiment left for the northern frontier in New York to assist General Schuyler. Matthias was stationed at Fort Ticonderoga where he oversaw the construction of a redoubt which served as an outer defence for the fort. In August he wrote his good friend Aaron Burr from Ticonderoga saying: "I shall have the honor to command the redoubt which I am now building with the regiment alone. It is situated on the right of the whole, by the waters edge. It is to mount two 18 pounders, two 12, and four 9 pounders. In it I expect to do honor to New Jersey." Matthias saw no action at Ticonderoga, thanks to Benedict Arnold's brilliant

naval battle at Valcour Island (10). In late October, the First New Jersey Regiment began the trip home to be reunited with their loved ones. However, the war was going badly. New York City had been lost to the British, and the main army, under Washington, was retreating across New Jersey into Pennsylvania.

On January 1, 1777 the First New Jersey Regiment was re-established for the third time. Matthias Ogden was promoted to colonel and given the command, a position he would hold for the remainder of the war. Matthias' younger brother, Aaron, was in the same regiment. Initially he held the rank of captain-lieutenant, but over time he was promoted to brigade major and aid-de-camp. Not long after receiving command of the First New Jersey Regiment, Matthias wrote some amusing and informative camp verses (11). Within these verses of rhyme he relates some of his military experiences and that of others around him. He also gives his opinion of certain military regulations. Matthias' camp verses are presented in Appendix A.

After Washington's spectacular victories at Trenton and Princeton, the remaining British garrisons in New Jersey were forced on the defensive. On January 8, 1777 the British were driven out of Elizabethtown by Brigadier General William Maxwell and his New Jersey Continentals. Ogden's First New Jersey Regiment and his father-in-law's, Colonel Elias Dayton, Third New Jersey Regiment were ordered to guard the Newark and Elizabethtown area. Staten Island, which is just across the Arthur Kill River from New Jersey, was held by the British and the hated Loyalists. On August 22, as Washington marched to defend Philadelphia, Major General John Sullivan launched a surprise attack on Staten Island. In support of Sullivan, the regiments of Matthias Ogden and Elias Dayton simultaneously attacked. The attack failed miserably. Ogden and Dayton managed to capture about one hundred prisoners, however, their success was more than offset by Sullivan's loss of several hundred men. After this failure, Sullivan, along with the regiments of Matthias Ogden and Elias Dayton, marched to support Washington, leaving the Elizabethtown area to the inadequate protection of the militia.

After failing to entice Washington into battle in eastern New Jersey, British General Howe put to sea from New York City with sixteen thousand men for Philadelphia. When Howe arrived in Chesapeake Bay, Washington marched to defend the seat of Congress. Matthias Ogden and his First New Jersey Regiment were part of Washington's army in Lord Stirling's Division. Washington positioned his troops between Wilmington and Philadelphia on Brandywine Creek in an effort to block the British Army from Philadelphia. On September 11, 1777 the two armies clashed. Ogden's Regiment performed well in slowing the British advance on "the plowed hill." However, Washington's Army had been outmaneuvered and under the cover of darkness he pulled his army back to Chester, leaving the field of battle to the British. On September 26 the redcoats marched easily into Philadelphia.

The main body of the British troops was bivouacked at Germantown, about five miles northeast of Philadelphia. Washington and his staff planned a complicated predawn (October 4) surprise attack on Germantown. Again, Lord Stirling's Division, which included Matthias Ogden's Regiment, was involved in the battle. Stirling's Division was held in reserve until called into action at the Chew House. When Cornwallis came up from Philadelphia with reinforcements, Washington ordered a general withdrawal and the battle of Germantown was over. British General Howe did not pursue the Americans and withdrew to fortify Philadelphia.

Soon after the defeat at Germantown, Washington took his army into winter quarters near Valley Forge on the slopes of a ridge overlooking the Schuylkill River. Here they were a constant threat to the British in Philadelphia, and the location was readily defensible against British attacks. Matthias Ogden and his regiment spent the winter at Valley Forge in the brigade of General William Maxwell. During this memorable winter encampment of 1777-78, Washington's Army was molded into an effective fighting force by Baron Friedrich von Steuben.

In May 1778, General Sir Henry Clinton arrived in Philadelphia to replace General Howe as British commander-in-chief in North America. Clinton had been ordered to evacuate Philadelphia and to withdraw to New York City. On June 18 the British left Philadelphia and began marching to the northeast across New Jersey. Washington's Army broke camp at Valley Forge and followed, looking for an opportune time to attack. On June 28, near Monmouth Courthouse, Washington attacked the rear guard of Clinton's Army. Matthias Ogden's Regiment was involved in the initial attack which was commanded by General Lee. However, Lee retreated for no apparent reason and was relieved of his command by an irate Washington. At Lee's court marshall Lieutenant Colonel Richard Harrison testified that when he attempted to find out why Lee was retreating that he came upon Ogden's Regiment, which was in the rear column. Harrison testified that "He (Matthias Ogden) appeared to be exceedingly exasperated and said, By God! they are flying from a shadow."

During the Battle of Monmouth, Major Aaron Ogden, Matthias' brother, served as aide-de-camp for Lord Stirling. The information that he reconnoitered gave Washington the advantage and subsequent victory over the British. Also, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Barber, childhood friend and brother-in-law of Matthias Ogden, was wounded in the battle and was laid up long enough so that he could marry Matthias Ogden's cousin Anne (12). Barber's first wife was Matthias' sister Mary who had died in 1773.

The night after the Battle of Monmouth, Clinton's Army silently retreated to the safety of New York City. As part of General Maxwell's Brigade, Matthias Ogden's Regiment again guarded the Elizabethtown area. Elizabethtown's proximity to British held New York City made them susceptible to British foraging raids. During such a raid in February 1779, Matthias' brother Aaron, while reconnoitering the landing of the British, was wounded between the ribs by a bayonet. Although exhausted from loss of blood he escaped. In Elizabethtown, with 1000 men, the British burned to the ground the army barracks, a blacksmith shop, and Francis Barber's Academy. Matthias Ogden and Elias Dayton, with their regiments, pursued the British as they retreated, retaking all the cattle the British had stolen.

The American frontier settlements in New York and Pennsylvania were continually harassed by the Indians and Loyalists, who were urged on by the British. After the massacres of Wyoming and Cherry Valley in 1778, General Washington presented plans for an "Indian expedition" to Congress. It was authorized on February 25, 1779 and was to give some protection to the frontier settlements by destroying the Indian towns and food supply.

The expedition was a two-pronged attack. The main army, commanded by Major General John Sullivan, gathered at Easton, Pennsylvania. The other branch of the army, commanded by Brigadier General James Clinton, gathered at Canajoharie, New York. Matthias Ogden's First New Jersey Regiment was with the main army in General Maxwell's Brigade (13).

The main army departed Easton on June 18, 1779. The two armies joined forces on August 22 at Tioga Point, Pennsylvania. One week later, six miles east of present-day Elmira, New York, the Battle of Newtown took place. The Indians and Loyalists had prepared an ambuscade which was discovered by Sullivan's scouts; they were soundly defeated after a seven hour battle in which Matthias Ogden's Regiment figured prominently. After the Battle of Newtown, Sullivan's Army met little further resistance as they marched into the Genesee Valley region of New York State destroying Indian towns and crops.

After returning from the Sullivan-Clinton expedition, Matthias Ogden's Regiment went into winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. The winter of 1779-80 was one of the severest on record and became known as the "Hard Winter". During this trying period, Matthias Ogden was charged with collecting provisions for the army from his home county of Essex.

In 1780 the Marquis de Lafayette returned from France with reinforcements and supplies. He gave badly needed clothing and other necessities to the New Jersey Brigade. To his good friend, Matthias Ogden, he presented a fine sword. He also gave a sword to each officer in Matthias' Regiment.

Convinced of discontent in the Patriot ranks, Lieutenant General Wilhelm von Knyphausen invaded New Jersey in June 1780. With 6000 Hessian and British troops he hoped to quickly push to Morristown and surprise Washington. However, after landing at Elizabethtown Point on June 6, he surprisingly met strong resistance from Maxwell's New Jersey Brigade at Elizabethtown, Connecticut Farms (now Union), and Springfield. Most all of the Elizabethtown officers were present, which included Colonels Matthias Ogden and Elias Dayton, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Barber, and Major Aaron Ogden. On June 8 Knyphausen retreated back to Elizabethtown Point, burning and looting as he went. Here he defiantly set up camp awaiting reinforcements from Sir Henry Clinton. After several days of skirmishing, the reinforcements arrived and Knyphausen marched again on June 23 for Morristown. At Springfield he was met by the American Army under General Green and an aroused militia. Matthias Ogden's First New Jersey Regiment saw action in the Vauxhall area, one mile northeast of Springfield, as they attempted to prevent the British from outflanking the lines. Again the British were driven back to Elizabethtown Point, where this time they crossed over to Staten Island, never again to attempt operations in New Jersey.

On the night of November 4, 1780, Cornelius and Smith Hatfield, the hated Elizabethtown Loyalists, crossed over from Staten Island with a raiding party. At Herd's Tavern in Connecticut Farms, the raiding party surprised and captured Colonel Matthias Ogden and his brother-in-law Captain Jonathan Dayton while they were sleeping. Both men were taken to Staten Island and then sent to New York City where they were allowed the freedom of the city. The ebullient young Matthias Ogden soon became a favorite among the British officers and a constant guest at their mess. One day a newly arrived officer from England offered a toast exclaiming "Damnation to the Rebels!" Matthias had risen with the rest and on hearing these words flung his glass and its contents in the face of the offending British officer. He then proclaimed: "Damnation to him who dares to propose such a toast in my presence!" They both were immediately placed under arrest and the British officer challenged Matthias to a duel. The British commanding officer refused to allow Colonel Ogden to accept the challenge, and the mess apologized to Matthias for the rudeness of their brother officer. Matthias was invited to resume his place at their table and was treated with the utmost courtesy thereafter. Matthias was exchanged in April 1781.

By the summer of 1781 Matthias Ogden was back at the head of his regiment. They were camped with the New Jersey Brigade at Springfield, New Jersey to help deceive the British into thinking that Washington was preparing a long siege on New York City. Instead, Washington had his eye on Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.

After fighting his way north from Charleston, South Carolina, British General Charles Cornwallis took his 8000 man army to the Virginia coast to wait for a relief expedition from Sir Henry Clinton. He dug in at Yorktown on the Chesapeake Bay. When Washington learned that French Admiral Comte Francois Joseph Paul de Grasse planned to sail with a large fleet from the West Indies to Chesapeake Bay, he quickly saw the possibility of capturing Cornwallis' entire army. With the French fleet blocking Chesapeake Bay from British shipping, the American Army could surround and lay siege to Yorktown.

In late August the New Jersey Continentals broke camp and rapidly marched south with the American Army, followed closely by some French troops. By September 28 Yorktown was surrounded by land troops and blocked at sea by the French fleet. When the American and French armies stormed the British defensives, Matthias and Aaron Ogden, Elias Dayton, and Francis Barber were in the thick of the fighting (14). Finally, with no hope of escape, Cornwallis surrendered. On October 19 the British garrison marched out of Yorktown to a field of surrender to the music "The World Turned Upside Down." Yorktown was the decisive event that ended the war. No more serious fighting occurred until the war officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

Shortly after the British surrender at Yorktown, Matthias Ogden, as a member of a committee from the army, hurried to Congress in Philadelphia with petitions for back pay. The mission was fruitless.

On March 28, 1782 Matthias Ogden submitted a bold plan to Washington, while the Commander-in-Chief was in Morristown (15). Ogden proposed to lead a raiding party into British held New York City in an attempt to capture Prince William Henry and Admiral Digby. The prince was the son of King George III of England and was serving as midshipman in the fleet of Admiral Digby.

The plan was to surprise the prince and admiral at their quarters in Hanover Square and bring them off as prisoners of war. Ogden was to be aided by a captain, a subaltern, three sergeants, and 36 men. They intended to embark from the New Jersey shore on a rainy night in four whaleboats with muffled oars and land at a wharf not far from the quarters of the prince and admiral. Part of the men were to guard the boats, while Colonel Ogden with a strong party was to proceed to the house, force the door if necessary, and capture the two subjects. In order to protect the men carrying the prisoners while returning to the boats, a part of the men armed with guns and bayonets were to proceed in the advance and another group of men were to follow at the distance of one-half gunshot.

The plan was approved by Washington, who also instructed Colonel Ogden to be careful that no insult or indignity be done to the prisoners. They were to be treated with all possible respect and conveyed without delay to Congress. However, the plan was never attempted and it is not known how far it was carried towards execution. It seems that the whaleboats were discovered by the British and that an exaggerated alarm was given. A New York newspaper, dated April 23, 1782, stated that the Rebels planned to fire the suburbs and "during the height of the conflagration to make a descent on the lower part of the city, and wrest from our embraces his excellency Sir H. Clinton, Prince William Henry, and several other illustrious personages."

Tragically, on February 11, 1783, Matthias Ogden's brother-in-law, the daring and flashing Colonel Francis Barber, was killed in an unusual accident. While at headquarters in Newburgh, New York, Barber was asked by General Washington to deliver a dispatch. As he was riding through some woods where soldiers were felling trees for firewood, a falling tree struck and killed both the rider and his horse.

With the war practically over, Matthias was granted leave from the army, on April 21, 1783, so that he could sail for Europe. He sailed on April 30, 1783 from Philadelphia for Ostend, Belgium. From there he traveled to Paris, France where he hoped to strike up a trade agreement with some French merchants through his connections with Lafayette (16).

Preliminary agreements were made with a Monsieur LaConteaux, but nothing of any substance appears to have evolved.

Matthias made a hit socially in France because of his exploits during the Revolutionary War. He was presented to King Louis XVI and awarded "Le droit du Tabouret", which permitted him to sit in the royal presence. When Matthias returned home, by way of England in October 1783, he carried with him the first report of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which ended the war. He personally delivered the good news to the president of Congress, Elias Boudinot. Congress was then sitting at Princeton, New Jersey. While he was in Europe, on September 30, Congress breveted Matthias to the rank of brigadier general.

POST REVOLUTIONARY WAR YEARS

As his war record shows, Matthias Ogden was a man of boundless energy and ambition. Not long after returning home from Paris he completed his study of law, obtained his license, and opened a law office in Elizabethtown. He served as attorney for many stockholders in western land speculation. Many prominent Elizabethtown men, including Matthias and Aaron Ogden, held shares and took active interest in the Ohio tract of land belonging to John Cleve Symmes and associates.

In addition to his law profession, Matthias Ogden was involved in other diverse business ventures. After the war, in partnership with his brother-in-law Colonel Oliver Spencer, he took over his father's tannery. When his father died in 1787 he inherited the tannery and home. He also obtained the contract for transporting the mail between New York and Philadelphia over an old stage line in which he held an interest. In 1785 he ran for political office and was elected for one term as a member of the 10th New Jersey Legislative Council from Essex County (17).

While a member of the New Jersey Legislature, Ogden became interested in coinage. This interest first surfaced in January 1786 when he wrote the Continental Congress regarding a federal mint. Then in March he introduced a bill in the New Jersey Legislature to establish a copper coinage in the state. His bill unanimously passed in the Council only to be rejected in the Assembly. However, at the next sitting of the Legislature, the Assembly appointed a committee of four to confer with three Englishmen who had petitioned for a coinage contract. As a result, Daniel Marsh, who was one of the committeemen, introduced a bill in behalf of the petitioners entitled "An Act for the Establishment of a Coinage in this State." It so happened that Daniel Marsh had voted against the copper coinage bill that Matthias Ogden had introduced in March. Between sittings of the legislature Matthias had disposed of his interest in the old stage line and had the permission of Congress to shift the mail transport contract to Daniel Marsh's new line of stages between New York and Philadelphia. This suspicious transaction or perhaps some other consideration must have changed Marsh's mind concerning a copper coinage in the state.

The coinage bill passed and became law on June 1, 1786. It granted the exclusive right of coinage to Walter Mould, Thomas Goadsby, and Albion Cox. The contractors were to coin 3 million coppers at 150 grains each within a 2 year period. In another questionable deal, the contractors leased Daniel Marsh's Rahway mills for use as their mint. In a transaction that he would soon regret, Matthias Ogden bound himself to Marsh as surety for Mould's and Cox's rent payment.

The mint at Rahway mills was ready for operation by November 17, 1786. At this time Cox and Goadsby petitioned the legislature to sever their rights from Mould. Mould had not assisted them in converting the mills into a mint and he had not posted the required bond surety with the state. Five days later the legislature granted the requested severance, permitting Mould to coin one-third of the coppers on his own. Coinage then commenced at the Rahway Mint.

It took Walter Mould considerably longer to make the necessary arrangements to begin his coinage of New Jersey coppers. Mould set up his mint near Morristown, New Jersey in a leased residence once known as "Solitude", the former home of John Cleve Symmes, Chief Justice of the State of New Jersey. It is very probable that Matthias Ogden was instrumental in Mould's move to this location. Ogden knew Symmes from his involvement with Symmes' western land speculation in the Northwest Territory. Mould's coinage operation began sometime in April 1787 and continued until mid-1788. After considerable financial difficulty, Mould fled to Ohio where he soon died, leaving Matthias Ogden with the unhappy duty of paying Mould's portion of the rent from the original lease with Daniel Marsh.

Still interested in federal coinage, Matthias Ogden submitted a petition to Congress on March 23, 1787 for a contract to coin money. His proposal was one of five like petitions considered by Congress. The complete text of his proposal, as recorded in Volume XXXII of the *Journals of the Continental Congress*, is given in Appendix B. He offered to strike, within two years, 300 tons of copper at the federal standard and pay Congress a 15% premium for the privilege. Congress felt that the proposals of Matthias Ogden and that of James Jarvis deserved the most consideration. Jarvis was then part owner of the New Haven, Connecticut "Company for Coining Copper." The contract was awarded to Jarvis as a result of a \$10,000 bribe given to William Duer, the head of the Board of Treasury. Ogden, in his unsuccessful bid to obtain the federal coinage contract, had dies made for a pattern coin. These dies were engraved by James F. Atlee, the Rahway Mint die cutter. Coins were struck from the dies producing what is known today as the 1787 IMMUNIS COLUMBIA copper (18).



1787 IMMUNIS COLUMBIA copper

Struck at the Rahway Mint as a pattern for Matthias Ogden's March 23, 1787
petition to strike coppers for Congress.

Enlarged 1.5X

Sometime in 1787 the partnership of Cox and Goadsby, at the Rahway Mint, began experiencing difficulties. Cox became insolvent and may have spent time in debtors prison. A Writ of Replevin, issued on January 29, 1788, indicates that Goadsby removed the minting equipment and was using it elsewhere. As a result of this trouble, all of the minting equipment was placed in the absolute custody of Matthias Ogden as Trustee. Again, as was the case with Walter Mould, Ogden was obligated to pay Cox's portion of the rent to Daniel Marsh. At some point in time Ogden removed the coining press and other implements to his home in Elizabethtown. This may have occurred in the fall of 1789 after Ogden had persuaded Marsh to give up his mills. This time period is further supported by the recollections of Mrs. William Chetwood, the daughter of Colonel Francis Barber. In 1858 she recounted to her son, Francis B. Chetwood, that as a child of ten or twelve she saw the coining press in operation in "a room behind the kitchen." She was born on November 1, 1780, thus, she would have been ten years old in 1790. Another recollection (1855) of the coinage operation at Matthias Ogden's home states that "the coins were made in a shed back of the main building." Both accounts were published in Crosby's *Early Coins of America* and are recounted in Appendix C.

Gilbert Rindell carried on the coinage effort at Matthias Ogden's home (19). It appears that the only operation done was to strike the copper planchets with the authorized impression. Mrs. Chetwood states that the planchets were brought in ready for striking and that she did not recall having seen any rolling, annealing, or cutting of planchets. In mid -1789 a coppers panic occurred and most coppers no longer circulated.; however, the coppers issued by the authority of the State of New Jersey were the exception. Thus, a great quantity of diverse

coppers that would not circulate were overstruck with New Jersey dies. All of the die varieties attributed as being struck in Elizabethtown at Matthias Ogden's home are found struck over other coppers of the day. A few of the old coining dies, first used at the Rahway Mint, together with a number of new dies were used (see illustration on page 1051).

In April 1789, as the United States entered a new era, George Washington passed through Elizabethtown on his way to New York City to be inaugurated the first president of the United States. Matthias Ogden and Matthias Williamson were in charge of the long line of militia and light horse which escorted him to the Red Lion Inn near the court house. Welcoming speeches were made and a reception was held at the Inn. Afterwards, Washington and his party rode to the home of Elias Boudinot for a sumptuous banquet. Finally, Washington was escorted to De Hart's Point for passage over to New York City.

At the early age of 36, Matthias Ogden died from yellow fever on March 31, 1791. His passing was deeply mourned and the New York chapter of the Cincinnati asked all members to wear a mourning band for three weeks in his honor. Matthias was a charter member of the Society of the Cincinnati, which was formed in 1783 by the officers of the American Revolutionary army. He was buried in the First Presbyterian churchyard in Elizabethtown. The horizontal slab over his tomb is inscribed as follows:

"Sacred to the memory of
General Matthias Ogden
who died on the 31st day of March
1791
Aged XXXVI years

In him were united those various virtues
of the Soldier the Patriot and the Friend
which endear men to society.
Distress failed not to find relief in his
bounty.
Unfortunate merit a refuge in his
generosity.

If manly sense and dignity of mind
If social virtues lib'ral and refin'd
Nipp'd in their bloom deserve compassion's tears
Then reader Weep, for Ogden's dust lies here

Weed his grave clean ye men of genius
for he was your kinsman
Tread lightly on his ashes ye men of feeling
for he was your brother"

Matthias Ogden's widow, Hannah, sold a coining press to the first mint of the United States on June 3, 1794 (20). This was probably the same coining press that had been used at their home to make New Jersey coppers. Also, sometime in 1797, she freed her mulatto slave, Michael Hardman, age 26. Hannah Ogden died on December 11, 1802 at the age of 44 (21).

Years later, in 1824, the Marquis de Lafayette visited the United States at the request of Congress and invitation of President Monroe. As he toured the country he was enthusiastically greeted wherever he went. At Elizabethtown Lafayette was entertained by Matthias Ogden's brother Aaron and Matthias' brother-in-law Jonathan Dayton. Lafayette walked arm-in-arm with Sheppard Kollock through the First Presbyterian cemetery (22). When he came to Matthias Ogden's grave, he lingered long in reminiscence of the days when Matthias was one of his closest friends.

EPILOGUE

The story of Matthias Ogden's life wouldn't be complete without some additional comments concerning Matthias' brothers, Robert 3rd and Aaron, and his son Francis Barber Ogden. Like Matthias, they also rose above the common man and became prominent in their endeavors.

Robert Ogden, 3rd: Older brother of Matthias Ogden, born on March 23, 1746. He graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1765 and then studied law under Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. After being admitted to the bar on June 21, 1770, Governor Franklin appointed him Surrogate in April 1772, to replace his father who had resigned. His law office was located in Elizabethtown, and he soon became noted as "the honest lawyer."

When he was a child, his right arm was disabled by a fall so that he could neither wield a sword nor handle a musket during the Revolutionary War. Nevertheless, he served as Quartermaster and Commissary of Stores during the Revolution. Although he had no ambition for political distinction, he served two terms in the State Legislative Council during the years 1778-79. After the war, he continued his law practice until his health forced him to move to the farm he had inherited from his father in Sparta, Sussex County. In Sparta, he became one of the chief supporters and ruling Elder of the Sparta church. He died in Sparta on February 14, 1826.

Aaron Ogden: Matthias Ogden's younger brother, born on December 3, 1756. He graduated from the College of New Jersey in September 1773 and became a tutor in Francis Barber's Elizabethtown Academy. When the Revolutionary War began, he joined the Continental service. He served in his brother Matthias' First New Jersey Regiment for the majority of the war (23). In 1780, after Benedict Arnold deserted to the British, he carried Washington's proposal to Sir Henry Clinton to exchange Andre for Arnold. After the war, he studied law with his brother Robert 3rd and received his license to practice law in 1784. He held various military and political offices in the state until in 1801 he was chosen to fill out the unexpired term of James Schireman in the United States Senate. At the beginning of the War of 1812 he was elected governor of New Jersey for one term.

Aaron continued his involvement in a multitude of diverse enterprises. For example, he was the second president of the State Bank of Elizabethtown, president of the Auxiliary Bible Society, president of the New Jersey chapter of the Cincinnati. He helped organize the Essex County Agricultural Society, and he owned a steam engine factory in partnership with Daniel Dod. Ogden invested heavily into steamboats and owned what was considered the fastest steamboat afloat, the *SEA HORSE*. Unfortunately he got into a feud with another Elizabethtown man, Thomas Gibbons, over ferry franchises. He became overwhelmed with debts and died broke on April 19, 1839.

Francis Barber Ogden: Matthias Ogden's third son, born on March 3, 1783. He was named after Matthias' brother-in-law, Colonel Francis Barber, who had been killed a month before his birth. At an early age he showed a keen interest in mechanics and through his Uncle Aaron Ogden he too became interested in steamboats. He studied and experimented with the steam engine as a propelling power for boats. When the War of 1812 began, he entered the army and remained in that service until after the battle of New Orleans, in which he saw action as aide-de-camp under General Andrew Jackson. After the war, in 1817, he went to England and designed and built a low pressure condensing engine for steamboat use. In 1830 he was appointed United States consul at Liverpool, England by President Jackson. Subsequently, in 1840, he was made consul at Bristol, England by President Van Buren, and he remained there until his death on July 4, 1857.

NOTES**(1). Matthias Ogden's Brothers**

- Robert 3rd (1746-1826); Lawyer. First married Sarah Platt and then her sister Hannah.
- Jonathan 1st (1748); Died in the same year that he was born.
- Jonathan 2nd (1750-1760); He drowned in a creek.
- Aaron (1756-1839); Soldier, lawyer, U.S. senator, governor of New Jersey, and steamboat operator. Married Elizabeth Chetwood in 1787.
- Oliver (1760-); Died young.
- Elias (1763-1805); Married Mary Alexander.
- Jonathan 3rd (1765-1766)

Matthias Ogden's Sisters

- Phebe (1737-1790); Married Colonel Thomas Moseley, M.D.
- Anna (1740-1823); Married Colonel Oliver Spencer.
- Rhoda (1742-1822); Married Judge Timothy Edwards, brother of Aaron Burr's mother.
- Mary (1752-1773); Married Colonel Francis Barber. He later married Anne Ogden, daughter of Moses Ogden (Matthias' uncle).
- Hannah (1761-1789); Died unmarried.

Eight other children were still-born and an unnamed sister was born on December 10, 1758, but she died before the end of the month.

(2). Line of descent: John, Jonathan, Robert 1st, Robert 2nd, Matthias.**(3). The life dates of Matthias' parents are:** Robert (1716-1787); Phoebe (1720-1796).

(4). In 1804 Aaron Burr, then vice-president of the United States, shot and killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel. Later he was charged with treason, but was found innocent, for scheming an invasion of Spanish territory in order to make himself emperor of Mexico.

(5). Matthew L. Davis, *Memoirs of Aaron Burr*, 1836.

(6). After Tapping Reeve moved to Connecticut, Joseph Periam and then Francis Barber succeeded him as master of the school. The British burnt the school to the ground during the Revolutionary War. The school was rebuilt on the same site in 1789.

(7). Matthias Ogden's journal, which covers the days from October 27 through November 15, 1775, was published in 1928. The original manuscript is held in the collections of the Washington Association of New Jersey, at Morristown.

(8). The same cannon that fired the grapeshot that wounded Ogden also killed Montgomery. It now rests in front of the Union County Court House in New Jersey.

(9). Matthias and Hannah Ogden's children:

- George Montgomery (1779-1824); Married Euphrosine Merieult.
- Henry (1781-1799); Died unmarried.
- Francis Barber (1783-1857); Married Louisa Pownall.
- Jane Chandler (1784-1785)
- Peter Vroom (1785-1820); Married Celestine DuPlessis.

(10). Benedict Arnold intercepted a British squadron, commanded by General Carleton, with an American built fleet. The British squadron was sailing down Lake Champlain towards Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga. The battle took place on October 11 and 12, 1776 at Valcour Bay. Although defeated, Arnold's engagement cost the British valuable time. Thus, they proceeded no further than Crown Point before returning to Canada for the winter.

(11). The original manuscript is held at Morristown in the Washington Association of New Jersey collections. I have transcribed and annotated the verses. (See Appendix A).

(12). William Ogden Wheeler's comprehensive genealogy of the *Elizabethtown Branch of the Ogden Family*, published in 1907, states that Barber's second marriage was to Anne Ogden, daughter of Moses Ogden, Matthias' uncle. Also, within the receipt books of James Mott, New Jersey State Treasurer, it is recorded that on October 25, 1787, Ann Barber turned over 25,313 New Jersey coppers to the state (CNL page 296). This person was very likely Francis Barber's widow, alias Anne Ogden and cousin of Matthias Ogden. But – Edwin Hatfield in his *History of Elizabeth, New Jersey*, published in 1868, states that Barber married Nancy Ogden. At first this appears to be a contradiction between sources. However, since Wheeler's genealogy does not mention a Nancy Ogden and because the name Nancy is a derivative of the name Anne, apparently Anne Ogden Barber also went by the name Nancy.

(13). Captain-Lieutenant Thomas Machin, the future New York State coiner, was a member of General James Clinton's army. He was part of a three-company detachment from Colonel John Lamb's Second New York Regiment of Continental Artillery.

(14). Francis Barber was wounded at Yorktown for the third time during the war. After the surrender of Yorktown, Lafayette exchanged swords with Barber. Lafayette declared that he wanted to take back to France the weapon so often and so gloriously seen in battle.

(15). The original manuscript of this plan, written in Matthias Ogden's hand, is held in the collections of the Washington Association of New Jersey, at Morristown.

(16). The Washington Association of New Jersey, at Morristown holds two letters written by Matthias Ogden to his father-in-law Elias Dayton concerning Ogden's desire to establish a trading company. The first letter was written from Philadelphia on the day of his departure (April 30, 1783) and the second letter was written from Paris on September 5, 1783.

(17). The New Jersey Legislature sat three times during the term. Technically the General Assembly and Legislative Council had coterminous sessions, however, this did not always occur. The following sitting dates and places are for the 10th General Assembly:

Trenton: October 25 - November 29, 1785

Trenton: February 15 - March 24, 1786

New Brunswick: May 17 - June 2, 1786

(18). "The 'New York' IMMUNIS: A Mystery Unraveled", Walter Breen. *The Colonial Newsletter*, April 1979. Pages 668-676.

(19). Gilbert Rindell was a lifelong resident of Elizabethtown. He died on February 28, 1832 at the age of 72 and is interred in the burial grounds of the Elizabethtown First Presbyterian Church.

(20). The purchase of this coinage press was first identified by Frank H. Stewart in his book *History of the First United States Mint* (Privately printed, 1924). On page 175 is shown the mint expense entry for June 3, 1794 -- Hannah Ogden, for a coining press -- \$47.44. See also Damon G. Douglas' *The Coining Press of the N. J. Coppers* in *The Numismatist*, page 287 & 288 for April 1943 [Reprinted on page 1052 of this issue of CNL].

(21). Like her husband, Hannah Ogden is buried in the Elizabethtown First Presbyterian churchyard. The inscription on her horizontal slab reads: "To the memory of Mrs. Hannah Ogden. Daughter of General Elias Dayton & Relict of General Matthias Ogden who died 11th December 1802 Aged 44 Years."

(22). Sheppard Kollock was raised in Maryland. After studying law he learned the printers trade. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War he entered the Continental Army as an officer in the artillery. He resigned from the army in 1779 to publish a patriotic newspaper in northern New Jersey. Afterwards, he became a prominent citizen of Elizabethtown when he moved his newspaper (New Jersey Journal) there in 1785.

(23). Aaron Ogden wrote a brief autobiography for his children. It is chiefly concerned with his military experiences. The autobiography has been published, along with several miscellaneous Aaron Ogden letters.

APPENDIX A

1777 CAMP VERSES BY MATTHIAS OGDEN

We sons of Jersey foes to peace
 Almost eat up with itch and greace
 Now think it time for to recruit
 We unto you perfer our suit.
 Six months from Jersey we've been tore (A)
 And drove about from shore to shore
 Our men dispers'd in sloop & galley
 Since first we took Blue-mountain-valley (B)
 Our Colonel too with business cost (C)
 Above two hundred pounds has lost
 As per receipt for money given
 We wish in that would make him even
 But he from home for want of care
 Has lost a famous Sorrel Mare
 With oxen two, a stately pair
 He has likewise judging that his grass
 Cannot go off if it is fast
 But if cut down & turn'd to hay
 It may with wind be blown away
 Has order'd that they shall not mow
 Till he come home if naint till snow.
 Beside all this he has been abus'd
 And by Lord Stirling so misus'd
 That tortured by the tinging smart
 He says "Wood's felled round my heart."
 Sullivan likewise did him defame
 And called him coward, ignoble name
 How came you here in this great fright
 "You ought sir, to have staid to fight
 Not basely flew from the attack"
 "Sir - Sir says he, I'm not come back
 And hear me Sir I do insist
 I am as bold as ever pist
 My name is handed near & far
 Eight times I fought in the last war (D)
 Whores too in York I've kicked their asses (E)
 Tore down their shelves & broke their glasses

A soldiers friend too tis well known
 How well I make this case my own
 Provisson scarce I give relief
 Tho once I own with stinking beef
 I was so fierce I would you surprize
 The pickle flew in my mouth & eyes (F)
 The head knock'd in I siez'd a junk (G)
 But Lord have mercy how it stunk
 The beef not good I siez'd some pork
 For always I make thorough work
 My name is good among my men
 I led them off to fight again
 I am no prophet nor prophets son
 But know the war's but just begun
 And if the soldiers I abuse
 To come again they will refuse
 Their inquest less I'm fine tis clear
 I'll not be Colonel another year (H)
 Tho once I siezed sergeant Brown
 And like I have sworn I would him drown
 But told him I would let him live
 If He'd make friends and me forgive
 I hate to see these playing fools
 Who think in war that there is rules
 I never did at all incline
 To think there's good in discipline
 Or guns are better 'cause they shine
 I bid the soldiers look at mine
 And I can prove without cube - root
 A coal black gun as well can shoot
 As a rub'd and scower'd glittering gun
 That shines like platters in the sun
 I without drum can march as well
 As go to church without a bell
 And colours too they're painted rags
 Like colour'd smocks of filthy hags
 They talk of forts, redoubts & lines

Of mantelets traverses & blinds
Of bastions, curtains cover'd way
Of ravelin casement & glacis
Of picket, stockade berm's banquet
Chevaux de frieze and [Illegible]
With merlon too and embrasure
And fifty hard names more I'm sure
What of all this? Nothing but froth
To praise my self tho I am goth
I built a fort on com field hill (I)
Which I believe does stand there still
Tho more like pigpen than redoubt
Five hundred Indians It would keep out

**ANNOTATIONS and NOTES to
1777 Camp Verses by Matthias Ogden**

(A). The 1st New Jersey Regiment was in the northern frontier of New York State from May through October 1776.

(B). The Blue Mountain Valley was a British supply ship captured off Sandy Hook, New Jersey in January 1776 by several Continental soldiers and Elizabethtown men respectively commanded by Lord Stirling and Elias Dayton.

(C). Matthias Ogden's colonel was William Winds, commander of the 2nd establishment of the 1st New Jersey Regiment. Winds later became a Brigadier General in the New Jersey militia and died on October 12, 1789.

(D). "last war" - French and Indian War.

(E). "York" - New York City.

(F). "pickle" - A brine solution in which the beef was preserved.

(G). "head" - The flat end of a storage barrel. "junk" - Hard salted beef.

(H). Matthias Ogden was promoted to colonel of the 1st New Jersey Regiment on January 1, 1777 during the 3rd establishment of that regiment.

(I). The last four lines are in reference to the redoubt built under Matthias Ogden's command in the summer of 1776 while he was in the northern frontier. The redoubt was located to the right of Fort Ticonderoga on the shore of Lake Champlain. A 1778 map of the area showing the redoubt, the main fort and other features of the surrounding area is presented on the next page.



1778 Map of Ticonderoga

Drawn for the Court Martial of Major General St. Clair

K -- New Jersey redoubt built in 1776 by the 1st New Jersey Regiment
under the direction of Matthias Ogden.

A -- Main Fort & X -- Floating bridge to Mount Independence.

Source: New York Historical Society

APPENDIX B**Matthias Ogden's Federal Coinage Proposal**

"The last proposition is from Mr. Matthias Ogden in behalf of himself and Associates.

These Gentlemen propose to receive the Public Copper now on hand, and to pay for it (at a price to be hereafter agreed on) in Copper Coin, delivering every Week Three hundred and fifty Pounds New York Currency in Copper, until the whole is paid; Or to refine Sheet and Blank the Crude Copper, and Coin it under the inspection of a Person for such purpose appointed by Congress; receiving for the same fifteen Pence New York Currency per pound, free from every expense, except the Salary of the Person appointed to inspect the Coinage.

They further propose to refine Sheet Blank and Coin such a farther quantity, as with the Copper belonging to the Public will amount to Three hundred Tons of Copper Coin, within two years computed from the date of the Contact; the Coinage to be carried on under the like Inspection as beforementioned free of all expense, excepting the Salary of the Inspector, and to pay to the United States, Fifteen pounds of Copper Coin on every hundred Pounds Coined; the Coin to be of the Federal Standard; and fifty pounds weight of it to be furnished previous to the conclusion of the Contract as the Standard of impression and quality."

APPENDIX C**Extract from a letter from W. C. Baker to Charles I. Bushnell dated Morristown, August 8, 1855.**

"The building in Elizabethtown, used as a mint-house, is near to the house formerly occupied by Col. Francis Barber, of the Revolutionary army, and is known as the "Old Armstrong House" [Ogden's house]. It is still standing, and is situated In Water Street [Elizabeth Avenue], and the coins were made in a shed back of the main building. The coining here was carried on by a man named Gilbert Rindell, probably for account of Messrs. Goadsby and Cox. I have this from Mrs. _____, of Elizabethtown, who remembers the circumstances."

Letter dated March 19, 1858 from F. B. Chetwood of Elizabeth, New Jersey to John H. Hickcox, Esq. of Albany, New York.

"My Mother, the daughter of Col. Francis Barber, is now seventy-six years old, and says that all of her recollection on the subject of your enquiry is that when she was a child of ten or twelve years old, she used to go into the house on the adjoining premises to her father's residence in this place to see them make coppers. The business was carried on in a room behind the kitchen, by Gilbert Rindell and a person whose name she thinks was Cox. The modus operandi was as follows. In the middle of the room was a wooden box or pit sunk in the floor several feet deep, in the middle of which pit was placed an iron Die, the top of which was about level with the floor of the room. A workman sat on the floor, with his legs inside the pit.

He placed the smooth coppers on the Die and when stamped, brushed them off the Die into the pit. The impression on the copper was made by a screwpress which was worked by two men, one at each end of an iron bar or horizontal lever, attached to the screw at the center of its length, which was about nine or ten feet long.

My Mother thinks it was in operation only a year or two, but her recollection on this point is not very reliable.

The copper was brought to that house, all finished, as she thinks, except the stamping. She has no recollection at all of any other branch of the business being carried on there. She recollects that the copper when coined was put in kegs and sent off somewhere, and that her mother used to purchase a bureau drawer nearly full at a time, and pay them out in daily use for household expenses."

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34 - J

NEW JERSEY Copper Struck at Matthias Ogden's Home
Obverse 34 -- New die engraved for use at Matthias Odgen's home.
Reverse J -- Old die first used at the Rahway Mint.
Enlarged 1.5X



THE COINING PRESS of the NEW JERSEY COPPERS

by Damon G. Douglas

Originally Presented Before the Jersey City Coin Club.
Reprinted from *The Numismatist* of April 1943
with permission.

There are interesting stories waiting to be pieced together of the early coinage of our State of New Jersey and of the people who organized and engaged in the minting. One of these connects the Elizabeth-Town Mint with the first United States Mint at Philadelphia.

In 1786 Albion Cox, one of the contractors for the New Jersey Coppers, began operations in a room behind the kitchen of Col. Matthias Ogden's home in Elizabeth-Town adjoining the residence of Col. Francis Barber, whose daughter, a Mrs. Chetwood, in 1858 at the age of 76, thru her son, Mr. F. B. Chetwood, gave her recollections of the minting to Mr. John H. Hickcox of Albany, who was preparing his work on American Coinage. She described graphically the coining press which was set in a pit in the center of the room and operated by three men.

The coinage ceased in 1788 and Albion Cox returned to England, having lost money on his American business. There in 1793 he was hired by Thomas Pinckney, our Ambassador, at the request of President Jefferson, to be Chief Assayer for the new Federal Mint being set up at Philadelphia. This interesting correspondence between the President and Pinckney was published in 1924 by Mr. Frank H. Stewart in his "History of the First United States Mint" and established the arrival of Cox to take up his duties prior to May 7, 1793.

In the meantime in Elizabeth-Town Co. Matthias Ogden had died intestate March 31, 1791, as recorded on his gravestone in the First Presbyterian Church burying ground. The State Archives record that on July 30, 1791 letters of administration were granted naming as administratrix, Hannah Ogden, his widow. No inventory of the estate, if it was ever prepared, has as yet come to light.

At Philadelphia, Hannah Ogden's old acquaintance and her late husband's tenant, Albion Cox, had struck a snag that was delaying the start of silver and gold coinage. The Act of Congress establishing the mint and providing for the office of Chief Assayer required the furnishing of surety in the sum of \$10,000 before entering upon his duties, and this amount he was unable to provide for. On March 3, 1794, the amount of required surety was sufficiently reduced by Act of Congress so that Cox was able to get a Charles Gilcrist to go his bond for the reduced amount, and the way was thus cleared for minting the precious metals. However, sufficient coining presses were lacking for the required increased production of Cents and Half Cents simultaneously with the new silver Half Dimes, Half Dollars and Dollars, without even attempting a start with gold.

Although this was strictly the problem of Henry Voigt, Superintendent and Chief Colner, it would be no secret to the Chief Assayer who remembered the old screw press he had used at Elizabeth-Town six years prior. Thus in the records of the Mint appears the following voucher: "June 3, 1794. Paid Hannah Ogden, for a coining press \$47.44." Unfortunately there has not come to light any mention of the press from 1788, when its official operation ceased, until the 1794 voucher, so we are left to conjecture that the contractors left it possibly in storage pending a revival of coinage, or in some settlement of rental charges. In the six intervening years there was little use that could legitimately have been made of it, as the new Federal Constitution had banned all state and private minting. However, it does seem certain that the 1794 voucher was to this same Hannah Ogden for this same press. For any individual to have owned a coining press would have been a rare thing, but that two of them should have been owned by two individuals, both women, and of the same name, is of course, incredible.

Thus we may fairly claim for our New Jersey Horse Head Coppers that they provided the first Federal Mint with its first Chief Assayer, and with one of its early coining presses. Whether they had anything to do with the impairment of Mr. Cox's finances and whether that impairment was a contributing factor to the absence of a 1793 silver coinage remains in the realm of conjecture.

